

**Human Services Advisory Council
Minutes of the September 20, 2007 Meeting**

HSAC Members Present: Leslie Gordon, David Rogers, Gail Gulliksen

Staff: Pam Doran

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Chair David Rogers. The agenda was adopted as written.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the April 2007 meeting were approved unanimously.

Petitions: Ron Brousseau was not able to attend the meeting to speak on the Housing First model, but sent a document prepared by the Community Council on Homelessness entitled “Strategic Directions for the Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community.” The Community Council on Homelessness is planning to present this document to City Council in October to request that they adopt the “housing first” model to address homelessness. This program moves away from transitional housing and other support services as the first response to homelessness; instead it focuses on obtaining permanent housing first, then attending to other needs. If the City chooses to adopt this approach, it would involve redirecting the funds currently allocated to various homelessness programs. Pam Doran noted that staff has researched this model and found that it works for some populations, but is not an effective program for all homeless individuals, particularly those with other issues (such as substance abuse or mental health issues). David Rogers recommended that, if this model is adopted, the Emergency Shelter should remain open until the new program is shown to be successful.

Report from the Chair: David Rogers reported that he participated in the Boards and Commission Roundtable conducted by the mayor. He noted that there were 25-30 people in attendance, and each group had the opportunity to express the interests or concerns of their boards/commissions.

The chair of the Senior Commission has been invited to attend an HSAC meeting, and David plans to attend a Senior Commission meeting, to continue looking at the possibility of consolidating the two. The Housing Commission currently has a full membership.

NEW BUSINESS:

Auditing Grant Programs – Mr. Tuohy was not available to meet. He will be invited to a future meeting.

Review of Human Services Activities – Pam Doran will forward to the committee a list prepared by H.H.S. staff outlining their ongoing activities and actions.

HSAC’s Long-term Agenda and Membership – Gail Gulliksen submitted her resignation from HSAC. This will result in two vacancies on HSAC, but a potential new member has expressed interest. Staff and current members will continue to try and recruit to fill the vacancies.

In order to develop long-term goals, HSAC is interested in hearing how they can support H.H.S. staff. The list of activities that Pam will provide should assist HSAC in identifying areas of

interest. Pam noted that both H.H.S. staff and Council have appreciated the comments and feedback HSAC has given on issues related to human services. HSAC will continue to oversee the Community Services Fund grant process.

REPORT FROM STAFF:

Pam Doran will reschedule a presentation on grant auditing with John Tuohy. The Community Service Board presentation will take place at the October meeting.

The HSAC meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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